

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1667

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PLO, CE

SUBJ: PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIO IN
SRI LANKA

REF: STATE 091578

1. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS KEYED TO QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 1
REFTEL CONCERNING PLO REPRESENTATION:

(A) PLO IS REPRESENTED IN SRI LANKA.

(B) THE PLO IS CARRIED IN THE DIPLOMATIC LIST AS AN OFFICE.
THE OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN JULY 1976.

(1) THERE ARE NO INFORMATION TYPE OFFICES.

(2) THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIVES UNDER COVER OF ANY OTHER
DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS.

(3) THE PLO OFFICE IS CONSIDERED AS A FULLY ACCREDITED
DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

(4) THERE ARE NO PLO REPRESENTATIVES NOT ENJOYING DIP-
LOMATIC STATUS.

(5) THERE IS ONE PLO REPRESENTATIVE, MOHAMED ADNAN ABUAL-
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A'DL. HE HAS A LOCAL STAFF OF THREE.

(C) THERE ARE NO COMPONENT ELEMENTS OF THE PLO IN SRI LANKA.

(D) PLO REPRESENTATIVE HAS FULL DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND
IMMUNITIES.

2. COMMENT: DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION WAS GRANTED TO PLO UNDER
FORMER GOVERNMENT AND IS CONTINUED UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERN-

MENT. THIS REFLECTS LONG-STANDING PRO ARAB POSITION OF MOST SRI LANKAN POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS REGARDLESS OF PARTY IN POWER. THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA HAS HAD NO RELATIONS OF ANY SORT WITH ISRAEL SINCE THE ISRAELI EMBASSY WAS EXPELLED IN 1970. THIS DECISION WAS MADE WHEN MADAME BANDARANAIKE'S SRI LANKAN FREEDOM PARTY CAME INTO POWER IN 1970 AS THE DOMINANT MEMBER OF THE "UNITED FRONT" WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS. IT WAS AN EARLY MOVE IN HER INITIALLY SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO WIN PRESTIGE AT HOME BY BECOMING A NON-ALIGNED LEADER ABROAD. THE PLO OFFICE WAS ALLOWED TO OPEN JUST PRIOR TO THE 1976 COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. WHILE WE OCCASIONALLY HEAR FAVORABLE REMARKS ABOUT FORMER ISRAELI ASSISTANCE IN THE IRRIGATION FIELD, AND SUGGESTIONS OF IMPATIENCE WITH SOME OF THE LOCAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE'S MORE DRAMATIC ANTICS, THERE SEEMS TO BE A GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. GSL OFFICIALS KNOW THAT PLO IS FINANCED BY THE SAME WEALTHY ARAB STATES SRI LANKA LOOKS TO FOR ASSISTANCE AND THEREFORE IS NOT ABOUT TO OFFEND.

WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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